

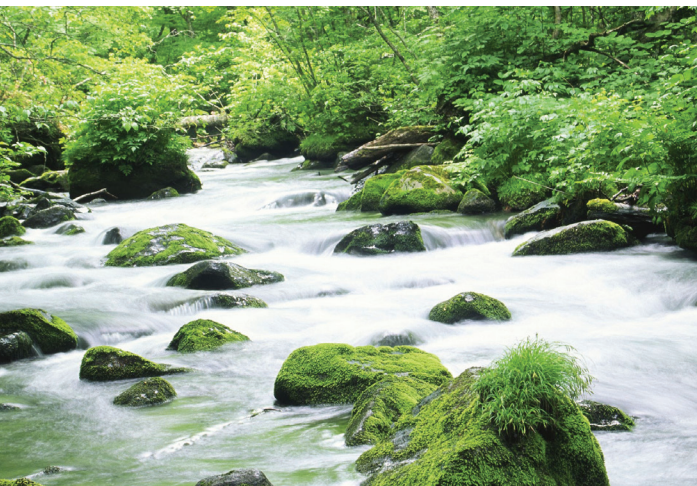
What is stormwater runoff and how do we impact it?

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain flows over the ground. Surfaces like driveways, buildings, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater runoff from soaking into the ground.

Stormwater can pick up trash, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer or directly into a lake, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is sent directly to the water we use for swimming, fishing and drinking.

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people. Below are a few.

- ◆ Sediment clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow.
- ◆ Excess nutrients (e.g., fertilizers, lawn chemicals) can cause algae blooms that remove oxygen for aquatic life.
- ◆ Litter can choke, suffocate or disable animals in or near bodies of water.
- ◆ Eroded sediment can block sunlight and kill aquatic plants, disrupt or destroy the aquatic food chain, reduce the capacity of streams and make flooding worse.



Want to learn more?

TELEPHONE

City of Rock Hill
Stormwater Hot Line **803-329-5614**

S.C. Recycling Hot Line **1-800-768-7348**

York County Stormwater
Pollution Hot Line **803-909-7250**

WEB SITES

City of Rock Hill **www.cityofrockhill.com**

S.C. Department of Health
and Environmental Control
(DHEC) **www.scdhec.gov**

DHEC's Bureau
of Water **www.scdhec.gov/water**

DHEC's Nonpoint
Source Water
Pollution Page **www.scdhec.gov/runoff**

DHEC's Office of
Solid Waste Reduction
and Recycling **www.scdhec.gov/recycle**

U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency **www.epa.gov**

York County **www.yorkcountygov.com**



Printed on RECYCLED-CONTENT PAPER OR-1069 12/16



Stormwater Pollution: You can make a difference.

Around the House ...

The little things you do at home can make a big difference to stop polluted runoff.

- ◆ Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents or used motor oil. **NEVER** pour them on the ground or into a storm drain.
- ◆ Purchase less toxic cleaners and properly dispose of them.
- ◆ Don't dispose of hazardous household products – like cleaners, paints and solvents – in sinks or toilets.
- ◆ Inspect your septic tank system every three years and pump it out every three to five years.
- ◆ Bury or flush pet waste. Don't leave it on the street or sidewalk.



Under the Hood ...

When maintaining your car or truck, take care of the environment, too.

- ◆ NEVER work on a vehicle in the street or near a storm drain.
- ◆ Work on a flat concrete surface where you can easily clean up accidental spills.
- ◆ Use funnels or pumps when handling liquid products or waste to avoid spills.
- ◆ If spills occur, use kitty litter, sawdust, sand or another absorbent material to clean up spills. Sweep it up and dispose of it in your garbage.
- ◆ NEVER hose down your work area unless the wash water is contained and disposed of properly.
- ◆ Collect motor oil and other vehicle fluids in separate containers with tight-fitting lids.
- ◆ Drain and recycle used motor oil filters. Let them drain into your oil pan for several hours before recycling them.

- ◆ NEVER pour antifreeze or used motor oil down a storm drain. Recycle used motor oil and oil filters at the **City of Rock Hill Operations Center**, 757 South Anderson Road. It is open Wednesday from 7 AM to 3 PM. Used motor oil, filters and antifreeze are accepted at **York County Collection & Recycling Centers**. Please visit www.yorkcountygov.com/recycle or call **803-628-3181** or for the location of a center near you.
- ◆ Recycle your car, truck and boat batteries as well as motor oil filters at York County's recycling centers, too. Drain oil filters overnight in a secure container and remember to recycle the excess oil.
- ◆ Tires from passenger vehicles (or smaller) also are accepted at your local recycling center. Please limit four tires per visit.



In the Yard or Garden ...

Excessive fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams, lakes and rivers. Lawn trimmings and leaves can wash into storm drains – adding organic matter to these water bodies.

The following tips can help prevent runoff pollution in your yard or garden.

- ◆ Don't overwater your lawn. Use a soaker hose instead of sprinklers.
- ◆ Install permeable pavement that allows rain to soak through and decreases stormwater runoff.
- ◆ Use lawn chemicals sparingly. Try eco-friendly products like organic fertilizers and natural herbicides.
- ◆ Avoid using synthetic herbicides (i.e., those made with glyphosate). They have been linked to health problems in people and are toxic to fish.

- ◆ Use a YardCart,* compost or mulch your yard trimmings. Don't sweep them in the street or into storm drains.
- ◆ When preparing for landscaping projects, cover piles of dirt or mulch with a tarp to prevent rainfall from washing them away.

All commercial pesticide applications around waterways require a National Discharge Elimination System permit. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/swater/ms4s.htm for more information.

*To order a YardCart, call **803-326-2462** or visit www.cityofrockhill.com and click on SERVICE REQUEST.

